

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION



Enclosure 2
June 7, 2012

Meeting

RIDE

Thursday, May 17, 2012 - 11:30 a.m.

MINUTES

Attending: George Caruolo (chairman), Carolina Bernal, Colleen Callahan, Robert Carothers, Karin Forbes, Mat Santos, Betsy Shimberg

Absent: Lorne Adrain, Patrick Guida

The meeting convened at 11:35 a.m.

Chairman Caruolo welcomed everyone and asked for a motion to accept the agenda.

Acceptance of Agenda

On a motion duly made by Regent Shimberg and seconded by Regent Callahan, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education accept the day's agenda.

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Approval of Minutes

On a motion duly made by Regent Shimberg and seconded by Regent Santos, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approve the minutes of the

May 3, 2012 – Board of Regents Meeting

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative, as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Gist gave an update on the following:

Results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Assessment in Science (Nation's Report Card)

The recently released NAEP science results highlighted that Rhode Island middle-school students improved significantly on the 2011 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in science and Rhode Island is now one of only 16 states to improve since the previous assessment.

While the improvement is good news, Commissioner Gist remains concerned about the wide achievement gaps that the results highlighted, which is not where R.I. wants to be when compared with the other New England states.

Growth Model Visualization Tool

RIDE released the Growth Model Tool for all elementary and middle schools.

The Growth Model is a more sophisticated way to show how much progress students make relative to their academic peers from one year's assessment to the next.

It takes individual student performance and compares it with other students who began at a similar academic achievement level and then looks at their progress relative to the other students' progress.

The idea behind this Growth Model is going to be throughout every system that we have throughout RIDE, including Educator Evaluation, school accountability, and other decisions, and it is available for teachers to use as they look at student achievement.

Innovation Powered by Technology Model School Grant Announcement

The Commissioner next thanked Regents Santos and Shimberg, who were able to join her, Governor Chafee, and Mayor Taveras at the Pleasant View Elementary School, in

Providence, to announce that Pleasant View is the recipient of our Innovation Powered by Technology Model School grant.

ESEA Flexibility Update

RIDE submitted to the USDOE its response to the questions of our request for flexibility under the No Child Left Behind request. We have received very positive feedback on the most recent round of responses, and we are hoping to hear from the USDOE sometime soon.

Central Falls Update

RIDE is moving forward with the work in Central Falls and is not only communicating but also working collaboratively with the district leadership.

RIDE has instituted regular calls and regular meetings at least twice a week among RIDE staff and Central Falls leadership to ensure that action items are being taken care of and that things are moving along.

We are closing out the 2012 budget, making sure that Central Falls has a solid 2013 budget, and getting a financial system into place; Deputy Commissioner Abbott is engaged in the negotiations with the Central Falls Teachers' Union.

Public Remarks

Amanda Agudelo, Nancy Cloud, Charles McLaughlin, J. Andres Ramirez – Faculty Members of RI College's Teacher Preparation Programs - Voiced their strong concerns about the standards and cut scores that are being set for the TESOL, ESOL, Technical Education, and World Language Praxis Tests.

Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Caruolo deferred Chairman's Remarks.

Discussion Items

Necessity for School Construction Project Requests

RIDE's School Construction Program is currently working with three districts (Chariho – \$2.4 million, Middletown – \$1.7 million, and Portsmouth - \$2.3 million), on their requests for necessity-for-school-construction projects that are reimbursed through the Housing Aid process and that have to be approved and certified by the BOR.

All three projects have undergone rigorous review under the multistage necessity-for-school-construction process and are in compliance with the school-construction regulations.

Each district worked with registered building professionals to reduce the scopes of work to address only immediate health and safety issues, and the scopes of work were also confirmed by an independent peer review conducted by RIDE professional staff.

Commissioner Gist reminded the BOR of the General Assembly's enacted legislation, which placed a moratorium on new school-construction approvals, with the exception of projects that are necessitated by immediate health and safety reasons, and that RIDE will make sure that these have been approved by the Senate and House Finance Committees prior to BOR approval.

Chairman Caruolo asked for clarification as to whether or not RIDE was able to keep the new projects within the General Assembly's prior year's allocation for funding of all the projects. Joseph da Silva, RIDE's School Construction Coordinator, said that he did not have the answer at hand but that he would forward that information to the Chairman prior to requesting final approval at the June 7th BOR meeting.

Proposed Certification Tests and Passing Scores – Feedback from Public Comment

Commissioner Gist reminded the Regents that at their April 5th meeting they approved, for the purpose of public hearing, the Proposed Certification Tests and Passing Scores of the 46 different certification tests to assess the pedagogical and content knowledge for prospective educators prepared in R.I.

Under this proposal, prospective educators need to provide evidence of achieving the recommended passing score for each certification test prior to attaining Rhode Island certification.

Even though no one showed up at the public hearing scheduled by RIDE, the BOR was presented with a document that captured the written feedback received during the public-comment period as well as the feedback from the Educator Preparation Programs across the state and from other advocates and experts in the field.

RIDE addressed questions from the Regents around whether the R.I. Teacher Preparation Programs were part of the process when setting a passing score and if their concerns were addressed and taken into consideration, whether RIDE has looked for guidance from other states with a large number of immigrant students that have gone through a similar process, and whether there is a shortage of ESL teachers that would precipitate a need to have more students coming out of our programs able to pass the proposed tests.

Chairman Caruolo voiced that he was disturbed by the fact that the largest teacher-preparation program, which provides the bulk of Rhode Island teachers and whose faculty members should be our allies in the process, came and raised some serious issues in his mind about the tests and cut-scores, which he needs RIDE to refute and address before he casts his vote.

Approval Items

a. Renewal of the Charter of the Compass School

On a motion duly made by Regent Carothers and seconded by Regent Forbes, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education renews the Charter of the Compass School for a five (5) year term, to operate in accordance with the renewed Charter from the 2012-13 school year to the 2016-17 school year, as presented.

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Commissioner Gist reminded everyone that the Compass School’s Charter concludes at the end at the end of the current academic year, and of how much work has been done since her arrival in R.I. to get the approval process to the level of quality that she believes is important. She believes very confident that RIDE has addressed any allegations that were laid out in the written communications from the Chariho Regional School District, and she is very confident with her recommendation for a five-year renewal.

The Regents voiced their concerns and questioned some of the allegations raised in the communications from Chariho and requested data that they felt would be important to have prior to making a decision. Chairman Caruolo suggested that the data and any other information be requested in writing.

Commissioner Gist went on to say how much she appreciates Superintendent Ricci’s great leadership and the impressive work happening in the Chariho School District, but she noted that he does have a track record of not providing the funding as is required by law to the charter public schools that his students are attending.

John Anderson, Counsel to the Chariho Regional School District, spoke in defense of Chariho by stating that the district has had a pending complaint with the Commissioner that has not been acted upon for two years, which the BOR considered. He said that Regent Forbes made a very lengthy presentation with regard to that complaint at a prior BOR meeting. The Chariho Regional School District has been waiting for a hearing to address this matter and expects that the BOR will address it eventually.

Chairman Caruolo concluded by stating that there are well-established recourses available to be pursued by individuals, school districts, and state agencies. If the Chariho Regional School District feels that the Department is not fulfilling its responsibilities, it needs to allege that. There are well-established lines, methodologies, requirements, and abilities, and the Chariho School District needs to pursue whatever it thinks is in the best of interest of its

district and its students, and the Department needs to respond accordingly. And if it is not done to satisfaction, than there are other avenues. What the Regents cannot do as a Board is get in the middle of this, because they are ultimately, prior to the court level, deciders of the issues.

He then asked for a motion: On the school's record in its entirety, not on one-issue or two-issue consideration, based on the analysis of the Department and based on the conclusions from that analysis that formulate the basis for the Department's recommendation to us, as well as any information that can be gleaned by individual Regents asking their own questions or by reading the paper trail: do we wish to extend their charter for the requisite 5-year period?

Vote: Recommendation carries.

b. c. d. Approval of Waiver Requests pursuant to R.I.G.L. 16-2-3, entitled *Emergency Reduction of School Year*, submitted by the South Kingstown School Department, Cranston School Department, and Cumberland School Department

On a motion duly made by Regent Shimberg and seconded by Regent Bernal, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approves a one-day reduction in the 2011-12 school year at the Broad Rock Middle School, ES Rhodes Elementary School, and the Ashton Elementary School, as presented.

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

e. Approval of BOR Appeals Committee Recommendations

Student G. Doe v. North Kingstown School Department

On a motion duly made by Regent Callahan and seconded by Regent Forbes, it was

VOTED: That in the Matter of Student G. Doe v. North Kingstown School Department, it was voted that the decision of the Commissioner is Affirmed

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes,
M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Student J. Doe v. Cranston School Committee

On a motion duly made by Regent Carothers and seconded by Callahan, it was

VOTED: That in the Matter of Student J. Doe v. Cranston School
Committee, it was voted that the decision of the
Commissioner is Affirmed

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted
in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes,
M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Student R. Doe v. Cranston School Department

On a motion duly made by Regent Santos and seconded by Regent Bernal, it was

VOTED: That in the Matter of Student R. Doe v. Cranston School
Department, it was voted that the decision of the
Commissioner is Affirmed

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted
in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes,
M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Student K. Doe v. Cranston School Department

On a motion duly made by Regent Callahan and seconded by Regent Shimberg, it was

VOTED: That in the Matter of Student K. Doe v. Cranston School
Department, it was voted that the decision of the
Commissioner is Affirmed

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

On a motion duly made by Regent Carothers and seconded by Regent Shimberg, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.